



MEDFORD

Middlesex County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The City of Medford is an historic suburban city located on the Mystic River with several small streams that provided waterpower for early industries. Originally the site of estates owned by Governors Craddock and Winthrop, Medford became a town in 1695 and a city in 1892. The city's colonial prosperity was based on being a tidewater seaport with shipbuilding and distilling, and Medford was part of the triangle trade. There was a significant slave population. Shipbuilding was begun by Thatcher Magoun, using lumber harvested from the Fells and later from New Hampshire, which came down on the Middlesex Canal. At its peak in 1855, Magoun's shipyard employed 1,000 men. Immigrant populations, mostly Irish, were also employed in the brick yards and in quarrying Medford granite. After the decline of the shipbuilding industry, printed cloth, carpets, linseed oil, hats and rum became the major products of the city, as did education when Tufts University was founded in 1852. Fueled by its industrial prosperity, Medford grew quickly; between 1870 and 1910 the city doubled in population every 20 years. Residents manufactured shoe-making machines, chemicals, covered buttons and brass soda fountains. The city retains a rich architectural heritage which includes the nationally important Isaac Royall estate as well as Federal, Greek revival and Victorian buildings. The earliest homes remaining in the community are the Peter Tufts House of 1678 and the Jonathan Wade House of 1689, but at least one outstanding example of each architectural period remains. There are now many suburban neighborhoods in Medford resulting from the rapid and dense development which followed the first world war.

(Seal supplied by the community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Everett and Malden on the east, Stoneham on the north, Somerville on the south, Arlington on the west, and Winchester on the northwest. Medford is 5 miles northwest of Boston, 9 miles southwest of Lynn, 20 miles south of Lowell, and 223 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 8.64 sq. miles

Land Area: 8.14 sq. miles

Population: 57,407

Density: 7,052 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Boston WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....28.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....41.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Boston North, Lexington

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 396-5500

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Mayor-Council

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1630

As a city: 1892

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	29,253		
Democrats	14,989	51.2	%
Republicans	2,422	8.3	%
Other parties	9	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	11,833	40.5	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Medford city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	55,765	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	55,765	100.0
Male.....	26,133	46.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	1,443	2.6
Female.....	29,632	53.1	Mexican.....	148	0.3
Under 5 years.....	2,718	4.9	Puerto Rican.....	311	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	2,807	5.0	Cuban.....	82	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,808	5.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	902	1.6
15 to 19 years.....	3,482	6.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	54,322	97.4
20 to 24 years.....	4,314	7.7	White alone.....	47,403	85.0
25 to 34 years.....	9,458	17.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	8,715	15.6	Total population.....	55,765	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	6,921	12.4	In households.....	53,561	96.0
55 to 59 years.....	2,613	4.7	Householder.....	22,067	39.6
60 to 64 years.....	2,263	4.1	Spouse.....	10,058	18.0
65 to 74 years.....	4,539	8.1	Child.....	14,467	25.9
75 to 84 years.....	3,760	6.7	Own child under 18 years.....	9,219	16.5
85 years and over.....	1,367	2.5	Other relatives.....	2,961	5.3
Median age (years).....	37.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	656	1.2
18 years and over.....	45,756	82.1	Nonrelatives.....	4,008	7.2
Male.....	21,050	37.7	Unmarried partner.....	945	1.7
Female.....	24,706	44.3	In group quarters.....	2,204	4.0
21 years and over.....	43,088	77.3	Institutionalized population.....	536	1.0
62 years and over.....	11,022	19.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1,668	3.0
65 years and over.....	9,686	17.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	3,718	6.7	Total households.....	22,067	100.0
Female.....	5,948	10.7	Family households (families).....	13,494	61.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	5,198	23.6
One race.....	54,480	97.7	Married-couple family.....	10,058	45.6
White.....	48,209	86.5	With own children under 18 years.....	3,975	18.0
Black or African American.....	3,401	6.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	2,603	11.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	63	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	1,034	4.7
Asian.....	2,157	3.9	Nonfamily households.....	8,573	38.8
Asian Indian.....	411	0.7	Householder living alone.....	6,336	28.7
Chinese.....	886	1.6	Householder 65 years and over.....	2,743	12.4
Filipino.....	89	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	5,637	25.5
Japanese.....	91	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	6,765	30.7
Korean.....	159	0.3	Average household size.....	2.43	(X)
Vietnamese.....	319	0.6	Average family size.....	3.04	(X)
Other Asian ¹	202	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	17	-	Total housing units.....	22,687	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	4	-	Occupied housing units.....	22,067	97.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	6	-	Vacant housing units.....	620	2.7
Samoa.....	3	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	4	-	occasional use.....	56	0.2
Some other race.....	633	1.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	1,285	2.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	22,067	100.0
White.....	49,161	88.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	12,933	58.6
Black or African American.....	3,947	7.1	Renter-occupied housing units.....	9,134	41.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	242	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.62	(X)
Asian.....	2,391	4.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.15	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	51	0.1			
Some other race.....	1,356	2.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	377
Conventional Federal:	481

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	35
Federal (Section 8):	586



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Medford is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 28 and Interstate Route 93 running N-S.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available from West Medford to North Station, Boston. Travel time: 11-12 minutes; 30 MBTA parking spaces. MBTA subway service is available on the Orange Line at Wellington Station (11 min. to Downtown Crossing; 1,253 parking spaces). The Springfield Terminal Railway offers freight service to Medford. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Medford is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). There is fixed route service within neighboring communities and to Wellington Station and the Orange Line. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled. Hudson Bus Lines provides service within the confines of Medford.

Other

Medford has a 4' channel on the Mystic River which goes into Boston Inner Harbor. The city is within a short distance to the Boston docks, railroad and bus terminals, as well as Logan International Airport, providing excellent land, sea and air carrier service.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Royall House
15 George Street
(781) 396-9032
Tufts University Art Gallery
Aidekman Arts Center
(781) 627-3518

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Lawrence Memorial Hospital Of Medford
Tufts University Health Service

Long Term Care

Courtyard Nursing Care Center
Emery Retirement & Convalescent Home
Glen Ridge Nursing Care Center
Magoun Manor Nursing Home
Winthrop House Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.